

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-5 are now pending, wherein claim 1 is amended to include some of the elements of claim 6, and claim 6 is canceled.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Lazo for his time and courtesy during the interview conducted with the undersigned on December 18, 2006. The following highlights some of the issues discussed during the personal interview.

The abstract is objected to as being more than 150 words. An amended abstract is submitted herewith that has less than 150 words.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,416,344 to Nakada ("Nakada"). Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Nakada and Japanese Patent Document No. JP 11 092085A ("Okamoto"). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Nakada and Japanese Patent Document No. JP 64-24163 ("Hitachi"). These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Hitachi does not disclose or suggest the commanding device recited in Applicants' claim 1. It is respectfully

submitted that Nakada also does not disclose or suggest such a commanding device.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Nakada and Hitachi does disclose all of the elements of claim 1, as amended to include some of the elements of claim 6. The Office Action relies upon the combination of Nakada and Hitachi to reject Applicants' claim 6. This combination, however, does not disclose or suggest "a control device that controls each of the valve devices so as to allow outflow of pressure oil from the work hydraulic cylinder by invalidating a check valve function thereof in response to the command for allowing extension/contraction output from the commanding device and an operation of the operating device" as recited in Applicants' amended claim 1.

Nakada discloses an outriggered vehicle capable of crabwise translation. Check valves 27 and 27', which block reverse flow from the head end changers of the lift cylinders, are connected between on-off valves 26 and 26' and lift cylinders 17 and 17'. (Col. 3, lines 45-49). Nakada, however, does not disclose or suggest that a control devices controls the valve devices to allow outflow of pressure oil in response to: (1) the command for allowing extension/contraction output from the commanding device; and (2) an operation of the operating device.

To reject Applicants' claim 6, the Office Action relies upon Hitachi. Hitachi discloses that device 30 is coupled to directional control valve 21, and is

also coupled to valves 22b by way of valve 23. (See Figure 1). In the embodiment of Figure 2 of Hitachi, device 30 is coupled to directional control valve 21, and is also to valves 4a and 4b by way of valve 23. In contrast to Hitachi which discloses device 30 controlling operation of valves 21, 23 and 22b or 4a, 4b, 21 and 23, Applicants' amended claim 1 recites that "a control device ... controls each of the valve devices ... *in response to* the command for allowing extension/contraction output from the commanding device *and* an operation of the operating device." (emphasis added).

Because Nakada and Hitachi each do not disclose or suggest a control device that operates in the manner recited in Applicants' claim 1, the combination does not render this claim unpatentable.

Claims 2 and 3 are patentably distinguishable over the current grounds of rejection at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Okamoto discloses a control device for a movable crane, but does not remedy the above-identified deficiencies of the Nakada and Hitachi with respect to Applicants' amended claim 1. Accordingly, claims 3 and 4 are patentably distinguishable over the current grounds of rejection at least by virtue of their dependency from amended claim 1.

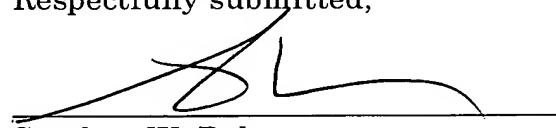
For at least those reasons set forth above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-6 be withdrawn.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #101790.56538US).

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT

~~The present invention includes an undercarriage (1), a revolving superstructure (2) rotatably mounted atop the undercarriage (1), a hydraulic source (21, 28) disposed at the revolving superstructure (2), at least a plurality of work hydraulic cylinders (11) disposed at the undercarriage (1), that are to be driven by pressure oil from the hydraulic source (28),~~ A hydraulic circuit includes a control valve (22) that controls flow of pressure oil from ~~the~~ a hydraulic source (28) to the work hydraulic cylinders (11), an operating ~~means (26) for issuing device that issues~~ a command for drive of the control valve (22), valve devices (12a, 12b) each comprising a check valve, each provided in correspondence to one of the plurality of work hydraulic cylinders (11) to allow and prohibit outflow of pressure oil from a work hydraulic cylinder (11), a commanding ~~means (41, 42) for outputting device that outputs one of~~ a command for allowing or a command prohibiting extension/contraction ~~and a command for prohibiting extension/contraction~~ for each of the work hydraulic cylinders (11) and a control ~~means (34 to 36, 43 to 48) for controlling device that controls~~ each of the valve devices (12a, 12b) ~~so as to allow outflow of pressure oil from the work hydraulic cylinder (11) by invalidating a check valve function thereof in response to the command for allowing extension/contraction output from the commanding means (41) and so as to prohibit outflow of pressure oil from the work hydraulic cylinder (11) with the check valve in response to the command for prohibiting extension/contraction.~~



ABSTRACT

A hydraulic circuit includes a control valve that controls flow of pressure oil from a hydraulic source to work hydraulic cylinders, an operating device that issues a command for drive of the control valve, valve devices each comprising a check valve, each provided in correspondence to one of the plurality of work hydraulic cylinders to allow and prohibit outflow of pressure oil from a work hydraulic cylinder, a commanding device that outputs a command allowing or a command prohibiting extension/contraction for each of the work hydraulic cylinders and a control device that controls each of the valve devices to allow outflow of pressure oil from the work hydraulic cylinder by invalidating a check valve function in response to the command for allowing extension/contraction and to prohibit outflow of pressure oil from the work hydraulic cylinder with the check valve in response to the command for prohibiting extension/contraction.